

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet, which includes Figures 1 and 2A, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1 and 2A.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

A. Introduction

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed March 2, 2005 (the "Office Action"). Claims 1-33 were pending. Claims 1, 11-15, 20, and 26 are cancelled. Claims 2-8, 10, 16-19, 23, and 27-31 are amended. Claims 2-10, 16-19, 21-25, and 27-33 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference; Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

B. Objections to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to Figure 1. In particular, the Office Action indicates that Figure 1 should be designated as "prior art" because only that which is old is illustrated. In response, Applicants have amended the designation of Figure 1 as requested. For the Examiner's convenience, a replacement sheet including amended Figure 1, together with an original sheet of

Figure 1 showing the changes made in red ink, is included as an attachment following page 19 of this Response. Entry of this drawing amendment and corresponding removal of the objection is therefore respectfully solicited.

C. Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to for various informalities, as noted on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended paragraphs [0032], [0036], [0042], and [0044] as requested. In addition, Applicants have also amended paragraph [0001] to correct an incorrect related application serial number and paragraph [0031] to correct an informality identified by Applicants. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added as a result of these changes. Removal of the objections to the specification is therefore respectfully solicited.

D. Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 11, 20, and 23 for including various informalities. In response, Applicants note that claims 11 and 20 have been cancelled, and as such the objection to these claims is now rendered moot. The requested correction of claim 23 has been made by Applicants pursuant an amendment thereto. As such, Applicants respectfully request removal of the objection to claim 23.

E. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, claims 8 and 10 recite limitations without sufficient

antecedent basis, as alleged by the Examiner. In response, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 to depend from claims 7 and 9, respectively. So amended, claims 8 and 10 now have sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations at issue. Accordingly, removal of the rejection to these claims and the allowance thereof is therefore respectfully requested.

F. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 7-9, 19, 21, 22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,597,479 to Chu, *et al.*, ("*Chu*"). Additionally, the Office Action rejects claims 6, 11-15, 20, 23, and 26-30 under Section 103 as being unpatentable over *Chu* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,661 to Kokkelink, *et al.*, ("*Kokkelink*"). However, *Chu* and *Kokkelink* -- assuming *arguendo* that these and the other references cited herein qualify as prior art -- fail to teach or obviously suggest each and every element of the pending claims and thus do not make obvious the present claimed invention.

With respect to rejected independent claims 1 and 26, Applicants note that these claims have been cancelled and that the claims formerly dependent thereon have been amended to depend from other claims. In particular, claims formerly dependent from cancelled independent claim 1 have been amended to variously depend from one of claims 16, 17, and 18. Claims 16-18 were objected to in the present Office Action, but have been rewritten pursuant this Response as independent claims, incorporating all of the limitations of the base independent claim and any intervening claims. Similarly, the dependent claims formerly depending from cancelled claim 26 now depend from claim 31, which was also objected to and has been rewritten as an independent claim, incorporating all applicable limitations. So rewritten, new-independent claims 16, 17, 18, and 31 are now allowable. Further, inasmuch as claims 2-10, 27-30, and 32-33 are variously

dependent upon one of claims 16, 17, 18, and 31, they are also allowable for at least the reasons given above.

In addition, independent claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of objected-to claims 31 and 32, *i.e.*, a circulator including a garnet disposed between first and second wedges, and a magnet that partially encloses the circulator. As such, Applicants submit that independent claim 19 is allowable as amended. Furthermore, claims 21-25 that depend from claim 19 are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the above claims is patentably distinct and request the Section 103 rejection in view of *Chu* and *Kokkelink* be withdrawn.

F. Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action objects to claims 16-18 and 31-33 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As already discussed, claims 16-18 and 33 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. These claims respectively replace independent claims 1 and 26, which are cancelled pursuant this Response. Claims 32 and 33 remain dependent upon claim 31. Removal of the objection and allowance of claims 16-18 and 31-33 is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the following comments regarding the Examiner's statements of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Applicants agree with the Examiner that the claimed invention of claims 16-18 and 31-33 is patentable over prior art, but respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth

in the Office Action. Applicants submit that it is the claim as a whole, rather than any particular limitation, that makes each of these claims allowable. No single limitation should be construed as the reason for allowance of a claim because it is each of the elements of the claim that makes it allowable. Therefore, Applicants do not concede that the reasons for allowable subject matter given by the Examiner are the only reasons that make, or would make, the claims allowable and do not make any admission or concession concerning the Examiner's statement in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims 2-10, 16-19, 21-25, and 27-33 is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is requested and allowance of those claims is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that can be clarified in a telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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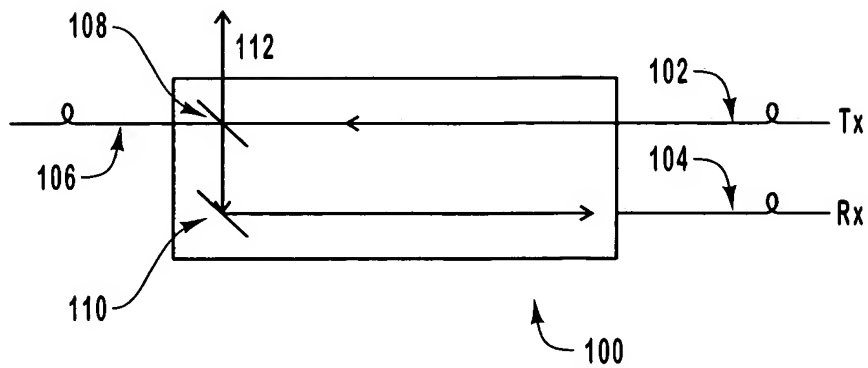


FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

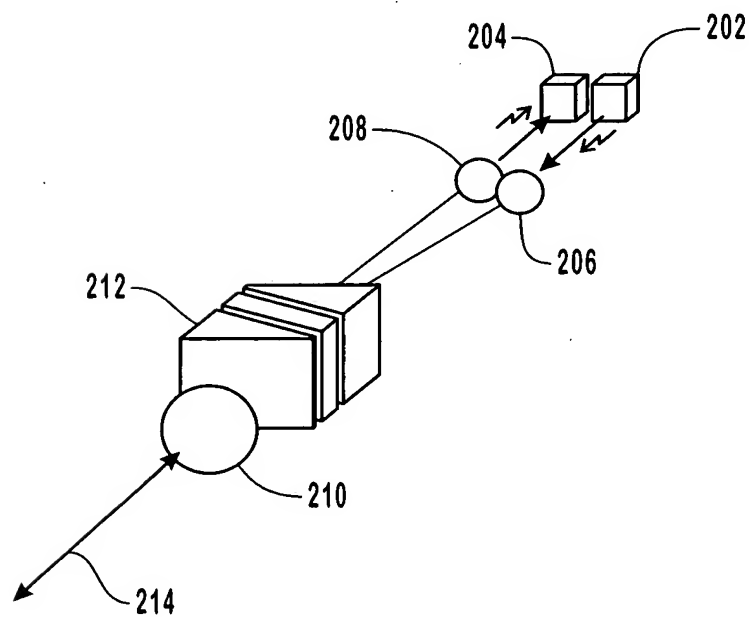


FIG. 2A